Student Connections

Family Orientation

Parent Breakout Session
Presenters

Lisa Samuelson, Student Activities
Jen Kacere, Residence Life
Let’s Connect
What struck you?
Why does making connections matter?

• Connections make you feel like you belong to a group or community
• Connecting with others builds your network which leads to opportunities
• Connecting with others expands your knowledge, skills, and abilities
Connection Building Starts Immediately
But the reality is…

Honeymoon

Initial Adjustment

Culture Shock

Mental Isolation

Acceptance & Integration

Connections with whom?

- Roommate/Suitemate/Floormates
- Classmates
- Peers with similar interests/backgrounds
- Peers with different interests/backgrounds
- Resident Assistant
- Faculty and Staff
Tips for Making Connections

- Show up
- Be approachable
- Encourage them to go where others’ gather and use common space(s).
- Reassure them that meeting new people is uncomfortable for everyone, it’s normal, and sometimes takes time.
- Be patient and realistic - making connections and friendships take time. It typically doesn’t just happen without some effort.
Ways to Make Connections

- Talk to people
- Attend an activity/event
- Joining a club or organization
- Class or study groups
- On-campus job
How do I help?

• Ask your student questions
• Encourage them to step-out of their comfort zone
• Be aware of campus resources to point your student towards – great information exists in the New Student Guidebook
• Encourage your student to be on campus as much as possible
• Join the NDSU Class of 2027 Family Facebook Page
Action Items

• On the car ride home today, ask about:
  – How they feel about meeting new people when they return in August
  – What they think they might do to make connections when they come back
Welcome Week

• Encourage them to participate in all Welcome Week Activities
Check-out myndsu.ndsu.edu to explore student organizations and campus events.
Summer Leadership Institute

July 28-30, 2023

Space Limited

Learn more at ndsu.edu/sli
Questions?